

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAM-01 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07

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P R 241247Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9247

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, PLO, XF

SUBJECT: SYRIA READY TO ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT

1. SYRIAN MEDIA EVENING AUGUST 23 ANNOUNCED SYRIA
WOULD ATTEND AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON LEBANON.

2. AS REPORTED IN OUR DAILY MEDIA MESSAGES, THE SYRIAN
PRESS DURING ASAD'S ABSENCE IN COLOMBO REPORTED MOVES
AFOOT TO ORGANIZE AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON THE
LEBANESE CRISIS, BUT MAINTAINED A PRUDENT SILENCE ON SYRIA'S
POSITION. I HAD RAISED SUBJECT OF ARAB SUMMIT WITH PRESIDENT'S
POLITICAL ADVISOR ADIB DAOUDI BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 23.
HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED ASAD WOULD AGREE TO ATTEND SUCH
A CONFERENCE SHOULD HE FEEL THERE WAS A "STRONG TREND" IN
THE ARAB WORLD IN FAVOR OF ITS BEING HELD. THE CONFERENCE,
HE NOTED, HAS BEEN CALLED FOR BY KUWAIT BUT LATTER WAS
ACTING, ACCORDING TO SYRIAN INFORMATION, ON SAUDI STIMULA-
TION. SAUDIS PREFERRED THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SUMMIT
NOT BE TOO PUBLIC.

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3. DAOUDI OTHERWISE LIMITED HIMSELF TO STATING THAT IF SUMMIT IS HELD IT WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE LEBANESE CRISIS AND NOT DEAL WITH OTHER ISSUES WHEN WE MET AT SOCIAL EVENT LATER THAT EVENING AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, DAOUDI COMMENTED THAT SYRIA'S AGREEMENT TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT WAS "WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS."
MURPHY

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NNN

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